

I claim:

1. (Original) A shopping cart extender for use in conjunction with a conventional shopping cart, such shopping cart having a rearward end which is hinged and capable of swinging inward, a handle on the top rearward end, and a tapered front portion such that the front of one shopping cart may be pushed into the interior of another shopping cart through the rearward end and the shopping carts nested to take up less space when not in use, and the shopping cart having a longitudinal plane which is vertical and passes through the midpoint of the handle of the shopping cart which comprises:

(1) a bar which is generally in the shape of an open rectangle and which is rotatably affixed to the top front of the shopping cart and is perpendicular to the longitudinal plane of the shopping cart; and

(2) engagement means such that the bar may be rotated upward and forward and secured in a vertical position such that the top of said bar is level with the top of the handle of the shopping cart and such that when the shopping cart is nested with another shopping cart said bar disengages and rotates rearward and downward into the shopping cart;

whereby an operator may engage the shopping cart extender in a vertical position and, because the top of the handle and the top of the shopping cart extender are level, conveniently carry long loads resting on the top of the handle and the top of the shopping cart extender.

2. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 1 in which said bar is engaged in any position in which the top of said bar is forward of the bottom of said bar when said bar is engaged forward of vertical.

3. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 1 in which said bar is engaged in any position in which the top of said bar is rearward of the bottom of said bar when said bar is engaged rearward of vertical.

4. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 1 in which a stop protrudes outward upward from either each end of the portion top of said bar farthest from the point at which said bar is rotatably affixed to the top front of the shopping cart.[, where upward is with the shopping cart extender engaged.]

5. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 2 in which a stop protrudes outward ~~upward~~ from either ~~each~~ end of the portion ~~top~~ of said bar farthest from the point at which said bar is rotatably affixed to the top front of the shopping cart.[, where upward is with the shopping cart extender engaged.]
6. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 3 in which a stop protrudes outward ~~upward~~ from either ~~each~~ end of the portion ~~top~~ of said bar farthest from the point at which said bar is rotatably affixed to the top front of the shopping cart.[, where upward is with the shopping cart extender engaged.]
7. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 1 in which an ear is affixed to and protrudes upward from each end of the handle of the shopping cart.
8. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 2 in which an ear is affixed to and protrudes upward from each end of the handle of the shopping cart.
9. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 3 in which an ear is affixed to and protrudes upward from each end of the handle of the shopping cart.
10. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 4 in which an ear is affixed to and protrudes upward from each end of the handle of the shopping cart.
11. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 5 in which an ear is affixed to and protrudes upward from each end of the handle of the shopping cart.
12. (Currently amended) The shopping cart extender of claim 6 in which an ear is affixed to and protrudes upward from each end of the handle of the shopping cart.